

# Renewable Energy and Low Carbon at DPP

At DPP we have significant experience of promoting and opposing renewable energy developments through the UK planning system. DPP has grown over 35 years to become one of the UK and Ireland's largest independent planning and environmental consultancies. DPP provides a range of services across key sectors from 10 regional offices and sustainability is at the heart of every project.

We are at the forefront of knowledge on sustainability and because we are independent, we offer honest and unbiased guidance. Using the technical knowledge gained from our experience of development and combining it with our local knowledge.



We have acted for promoters of development sites, for local planning authorities and third parties seeking to resist proposals. DPP is familiar with the arguments for and against such projects, so we are well placed to assist in the development of proposals to meet the requirements of all.

There is a strong presumption in favour of renewable energy development in national policy. However this must be balanced against many other factors including the impact on the landscape, ecology and heritage assets, along with noise, visual and aviation issues. Planning policy is also an important element, including policies for the protection of the countryside from development.

Our professional planning and sustainability teams know how to promote and develop applications for renewable energy schemes. Our experience means we are familiar with the important issues raised by developments including wind, solar and biomass. This is reinforced by a comprehensive database of policy documents and appeal

decisions, which can be drawn upon to support particular cases allowing us to track and identify fundamental issues and trends.

## Capabilities

Our experience and knowledge base means we can address key issues raised by wind energy development. Our extensive expertise includes:

- Initial site evaluation to advise on planning prospects;
- The co-ordination of specialist teams including landscape architects and noise consultants;
- The preparation of Environmental Assessments;
- Preparing and submitting planning applications;
- The co-ordination of public consultation and reporting on the results;
- Instructing experienced counsel; and
- Providing evidence for public inquiries into appeals and called-in applications.

Our expertise can be broken down in to discrete areas of work as follows:

- **Promoting development** – from domestic to larger schemes guiding applicants through the IPC process. Co-ordinating consultant teams in the development of proposals and the preparation of the technical information necessary to support applications.
- **Co-ordinating public consultation exercises** – we are vastly experienced in organising, co-ordinating and reporting on public consultation exercises.
- **Supporting Local Planning Authorities** – providing LPAs with expert advice to assist in the determination of planning applications and providing support at public inquiries.
- **Supporting Third Parties** – assisting third parties in the development of cases against proposals. Submitting representations and promoting their interests at inquiries.

## Case Studies

### March, Cambridgeshire

Client: Fivestone Ltd. (Abbey Group (Cams) Ltd.)

Following the submission of representations to the council's wind turbine study, DPP was instructed to promote a planning application for the erection of three turbines, which of 100m to blade tip at a site near March, Cambridgeshire. DPP co-ordinated a multi-disciplinary team to develop an appropriate proposal and the public exhibition, as well as overseeing the production of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

DPP also produced planning, design and access statements and a statement of community involvement. The team led discussions with the local planning authority, responding to objections from statutory consultees and third parties, and represented our client at the planning committee meeting.

DPP provided evidence in support of this proposal at a Public Inquiry. The decision is expected in July as the appeal has been recovered by the Secretary of State given the national importance of the renewable energy which would be produced by the proposal and that of a neighbouring site (which was also the subject of the Inquiry).

### Amendments to Wind Turbine Consent

Client: Infinite Energy UK Ltd

Acting on behalf of Infinite Energy UK Ltd, DPP successfully negotiated amendments to an extant consent for the erection of a wind turbine in Rassau, south Wales. The extant consent, which had been granted on appeal, related to a specific model of turbine which was no longer available. DPP made a case to the local planning authority that amendments to the height and location of turbine were acceptable within the scope of the existing consent and would not represent a material change that would have necessitated a revised submission. Agreement on the amendment was reached with the local planning authority within four weeks and no further technical assessments were required.

### Site Appraisals for Solar Farms

Client: Elgin Energy EsCo Limited

DPP was appointed by Elgin Energy EsCo Limited to undertake site appraisals assessing the potential for the development of solar farms at sites throughout England and Wales. Sites were firstly assessed for the visual prominence before the appraisals examined the sites proximity to environmental and other designations. Each appraisal considered the likely planning and infrastructure issues associated with bringing forward schemes and set out the planning prospects for progressing an application. For those sites with good planning prospects, DPP arranged and progressed pre-application discussions with the relevant local planning authority.



Please contact us for more information.



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